

Director
Intelligence Community Staff
Washington, D.C. 20505

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21 February 1984

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RADM John M. Poindexter, USN
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear John:

Last month I mentioned plans to install an analyst-to-analyst communication network to facilitate exchange of counterterrorism information within the Intelligence Community. I am happy to report that network, which we call FLASHBOARD, is now operational.

FLASHBOARD is both "voice and data," i.e., it enables analysts to exchange text via computer terminals and to discuss that text on accompanying secure voice circuits. Right now we have CIA, NSA, DIA, Navy, and State/INR on the system. We plan to add Army, Air Force, Marines, JSOC, FBI, and the Secret Service in the next few months. The system operates 24 hours a day. NSA, DIA, and Navy have counterterrorism specialists manning it around the clock, while CIA and State/INR have their analysts on after-hours recall.

I am very encouraged by this system. It was installed quickly, it is flexible, and it has been well received by most analysts. During the recent Rome assassination it served as a primary means of information exchange. I expect it to pay significant dividends in our overall counterterrorism capability.

Sincerely,



Vice Admiral, USN

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SUBJECT: Letter to RADM John M. Poindexter from [redacted] D/ICS
re: FLASHBOARD

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